**Aldo’s Broadband Steering Committee October 2022 Notes**

 (Joanie, Denise, Carol and Marcia met)

Fall Retreat 2022 –

Follow-up or Feedback – Carol went over costs for our recent retreat. GOBW Durango covered Sally’s travel costs and we covered her Gila hot springs camping costs. $50 from our broadband’s soft funding will be used to help cover costs of the Red Barn. (This was part of honoring our broadband founder who was able to attend while staying at the Red Barn.) Carol covered costs for mailing our advocacy postcards. (Thanks, Carol.) Generally, the retreat went well with issues discussed, an engaging service project at Gila Cliff Dwellings Natl. Monument, postcard advocacy and a hiking opportunity up cliff dwellers canyon, plus soaking and visiting. (There were two incidents of inappropriate behavior, and guidelines will be prepared prior to a retreat next year.) Marcia will send individual emails to participants to communicate we are glad they attended, share retreat photos, and see if they have any feedback. We also briefly discussed the idea of looking for a place with several cabins or similar for future retreats, or to explore other location possibilities - as an option. (Discussion to be continued.)

We briefly mentioned the possibility of a winter or spring brunch. We’ll put this on the November agenda for discussion.

List of interests from attendees – follow-up? Starr, Steph, and Lorna indicated an interest in border wall remediation / environmental advocacy. We discussed follow-up re this issue with Sally earlier on Monday. Joanie will email these 3 to see if they want to start by talking with Sally regarding ways to approach this. Sally could tell them about knowledgeable folks such as Miles T. or Eric (Sierra Club) or Bryan (Defenders of Wildlife). (Or, as a first step if they prefer they could try talking directly with Miles, etc. or AZ co-leaders active in this area.) Ultimately our border wall remediation team of 3 could join in with AZ broadband efforts, do our own thing focusing on NM, or a combination. They could also keep an eye on upcoming advocacy opportunities re environmental issues regarding the border wall, and communicate this to the steering committee. Sally will look into strategy for timing regarding when to write emails or similar to Senator Heinrich’s office regarding legislation re-introducing NEPA back into border wall “work”.

In addition, Starr and Tasha are interested in hiking. Tasha is still interested in helping with events. We will look for ways to incorporate this interest as opportunities arise.

Aldo’s Broadband Advocacy Team –

 Brief Update – 34 advocacy postcards were written at the retreat on the following issues: Wild & Scenic River designation for the Gila & San Francisco; Wildlife Corridors (follow-up to fund etc. NM Wildlife Corridors Act SB 228); Recovering America’s Wildlife Act S2372 / HR2773; Wildlife-Livestock Conflict Resolution Act SB2980; Clean Energy Reform Act SB4083 (mining on federal lands reform); NM Green Amendment.

 Topics - (Any additions or subtractions at this point from previous draft list of issues?) Not at this time.

 Letter advocating for funding of wildlife crossings in SC area, as follow-up to NM Wildlife Corridors Act – Joanie will get with our advocacy team (Rebecca, Margaret, April) regarding drafting a letter to Siah (NM representative) in support of funding (particularly for SW NM) for this well- done plan. The draft will be given to the steering committee.

Optional follow-up Brainstorming Wildlife Services Issue (I will bring Alicia Edward’s Sept. email re this)

 Discussed briefly, and Marcia will thank Alicia (County Commissioner) for her email response regarding our comments on this issue. Joanie will ask Sally Sharp if GOBW has done any advocacy or has helpful info regarding this issue in general.

Border Wall Advocacy

 Who signed up & follow-up – See discussion under retreat follow-up above.

 Next steps mentioned at retreat (timing of letter to Heinrich re NEPA process for wall infrastructure) Wait until we hear back from Sally re this.

Riparian - Grazing Monitoring Team update – (Not much monitoring during Sept. because of high water / flash flood concerns.) Brief summary of SB 2980 (Wildlife – Livestock Conflict Resolution Act) obtained during recent GOBW grazing collaboration Zoom meeting and recommendations on how we can still effectively advocate for this: Marcia reported that it did not make it out of the recent U.S. Senate committee because of 10/10 tie. It can come up again though and we can still advocate for it. Madeleine Carey (WildEarth Guardians) who has been working closely with this recommended that advocacy letters be saved as PDFs and attached as one email to maya\_Hermann@heinrich.senate.gov. She also recommended it’s best if only NM groups do that now, given it only focuses on NM fed lands. (Marcia will ask Susan and Linda of Rio Grande Valley broadband if they want to join in on this advocacy at some point.) Sally suggested that we talk with Madeleine first regarding whether to request a “meeting” with Maya soon, or to see if next year would be better – before writing a letter to Maya. Marcia will ask Madeleine for her opinion re this.

\*Please note email for environmental advocacy to Heinrich’s office for environmental issues other than active legislation: (Ashley\_beyer@heinrich.senate.gov who is the in-state rep for southern NM.

Brief Updates or News?

Update on GNF Plan – Donna Stevens checked with Nessa (GNF) and next review step is not anticipated before April 2023.